SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

TO: Board of Directors **AGENDA NO. V-A**

FROM: Steve Mack, General Manager

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF STAGE I WATER SHORTAGE

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Resolution 14-14 which directs the District to enact Stage I of its Water Shortage Contingency Plan with certain water use restrictions with the goal of 20% reduction in water production, based on the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) Resolution and regulations requiring implementation of Water Shortage Contingency Plans and certain mandatory water conservation measures.

FISCAL IMPACT: A 20% reduction in water sales would have approximately a $104,000 reduction in District revenues if done for the 270 day period of the State Board resolution. There would be additional, relatively small District expenses associated with the water conservation effort.

DISCUSSION:

At the July 3, 2014 Board meeting the District Board passed Resolution 14-13 which requested District customers to reduce water consumption by 20% following voluntary measures based on the District's Stage I Water Shortage Contingency Plan. At that time we believed the State Board would likely provide some more direction on what they thought the contents of each urban water agency's conservation effort should be statewide, but the details were unknown at the last meeting. On July 15, 2014, State Board passed Resolution 2014-0038 which directed State water agencies to have a minimum water conservation program that includes certain mandatory measures and to enact the stage of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan approved by the State Department of Water Resources which includes mandatory measures. The State Board resolution and attached regulations include the following mandatory restrictions:

- The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
- Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. Recycled water is not mandated, but encouraged for fountain use.

The District's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), Appendix A. describes the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan). The Plan lists three stages of water shortage – I, II, and III. Table A-2, excerpted from the UWMP and shown below, shows that reductions in the 15%-25% call for a Stage I declaration by the Board. The UWMP allows considerable flexibility in the actual details of Stage I level Water Shortage Conservation Plan, but mandatory measures, as used by the State Board, include prohibition of water waste which is an element of the District's Stage I level.

Table A-2
Emergency Response Stages and Reduction Goals

Shortage Condition	Stage	Customer Reduction Goal	Type of Rationing Program
15 – 25%	I	25%	Voluntary
26 – 35%	II	35%	Mandatory
36 – 50%	III	50% or >	Mandatory

The water use restrictions required by the State Board are relatively minor mandatory restrictions and in themselves will likely not reduce water use very much. They are more of examples that demonstrate that this is a serious drought and water conservation efforts should be taken seriously. The Board may want to consider other mandatory measures, such as:

- Prohibiting all outside watering.
- Limiting outside watering to 2 days per week – the State Board regulations have this restriction for non-urban water agencies that do not have a water shortage contingency plan.
- Limiting outside watering to days that coincide with the last digit in one's address, such as Monday-Wednesday-Friday for even addresses; Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday for odd addresses.
- Prohibiting the use of all outside water fountains regardless of recirculation.

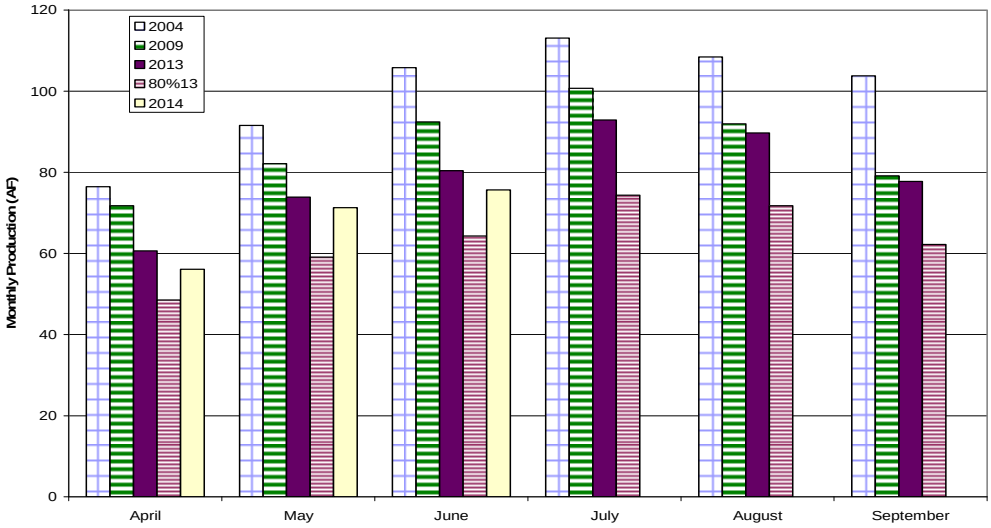
Prohibiting all outside watering is more than what is needed for a 20% reduction. The other restrictions would be difficult to enforce. We recommend including the mandatory restrictions required by the State and to recommend other outside water reductions on a voluntary basis. Prohibiting all outside fountains would be difficult to enforce – our only method of enforcement is shutting off water and that seems a little extreme for this situation.

Exhibit A to Resolution 14-14 contains the proposed elements of the Stage I Water Shortage Conservation Plan with the State Board restrictions included. This plan is based on staff experience of working in the conservation field and discussions with SCWA staff of what is available for regional programs. Because of the decentralized nature of this conservation effort, possible changes in direction from the State, and the current lack of an overall regional coordination of regional water conservation, the Plan must be considered subject to change. As we find better ways to achieve results, we would implement those better ways.

What does a 20% reduction in production look like? How does this compare with 2009? Figure 1 compares production for 2013 with 80% of 2013 that the State

Board is using for comparison purposes and with what we did in 2009 and 2004, which was the base year for comparison purposes back then. At the time of this report we had information on April through June and we have included that as well to show how current use compares with what the State is expecting.

Figure 1. April through September Monthly Production
Sweetwater Springs Water District



Some Observations:

- The restrictions and other provisions enacted by State Board Resolution 2014-0038 are in place for 270 days. Thus the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan will be in force until April 11, 2015 unless otherwise designated by the State Board. It will be curious what happens if it rains in some parts of the State but not others; these declarations are easier to enact than recall.
- The State Board apparently decided on 2013 water use as the reduction standard; in an earlier communication we were asked for the 2011-2013 average for comparison purposes. We will now go with 2013.
- Revenue impact is estimated to be $140,000 if done for an entire budget year. If a 20% reduction was achieved for the 270 day period of the resolution, the revenue impact would be approximately $104,000.
- The District has no police power to enforce restrictions. We cannot fine anyone for not abiding by water use restrictions. One approach to get police power would be to have Sonoma County enact water use restriction ordinances and delegate the enforcement authority to the District. That would be a time-consuming process, if even feasible, and is not available for this summer, nor is it necessary. We believe we can achieve the intent of these restrictions by verbal and written warnings, with the ultimate threat of shutoff.
- There has been quite a bit of press about the $500 fine for violating the restrictions. This fine is not required by the State Board regulation, just authorized, enforcement by District staff would be uncertain at best, and we are ignoring it.
- There may be health and safety reasons that a customer may have for violating these restrictions, in particular washing of hard surfaces – sometimes

water is the best and/or only thing available for cleaning a hard surface and it could be really needed. The State Resolution provides for a health and safety exception and that is included in Resolution 14-14. (where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a State or federal agency)

Resolution 14-14

A Resolution of the Sweetwater Springs Water District Declaring a Stage I Water Shortage

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Board has adopted Resolution 2014-0038 calling for a 20% reduction in statewide water use and enacting certain outside watering restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the reservoirs in the Russian River system and the flows in the River are low and projections indicate that conditions will deteriorate further later in the summer and fall of 2014; and

WHEREAS, it is in the District's and all regional water purveyors' interest that a cooperative effort be developed to address the water shortage situation in the Russian River system and statewide; and

WHEREAS, the District adopted the 2010 Urban Water Conservation Plan (the "Plan") by Resolution 11-25 on October 6, 2011, which includes a water shortage contingency element: and

WHEREAS, the Plan's voluntary and mandatory rationing stages may be triggered by a water supply shortage; and

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Board (State Board) Resolution 2014-0038 finds that a water supply shortage exists and directs the District to enact its Water Shortage Contingency Plan to the level that includes mandatory measures; and

WHEREAS, the Plan has a three stage response plan and provides that Stage I level should be declared when the conservation goal target is between 15-25%; and

WHEREAS, Stage I conservation by District customers may be achieved by adjustment to their interior or exterior water use, includes prohibition of waste of water, and requires concerted effort by District staff; and

WHEREAS, the State Board Resolution and regulations contains some mandatory outside watering restrictions including:

- The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
- Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. Recycled water is not mandated, but encouraged for fountain use; and

WHEREAS, the combination of the District's Plan and the State Board required restrictions are programs and activities that will help the District and its customers achieve a conservation target of 20% based on the 2013 usage; and

WHEREAS, attached as Exhibit A is a list of the programs and activities that will be undertaken by the District to assist its customers in achieving water savings under the Stage I conservation program; and

WHEREAS, certain District customers may need to use water in a way prohibited by the Plan restrictions and the State Board Resolution allows for exceptions for health and safety reasons; and

WHEREAS, the State Board Resolution 2014-0038 declared that the emergency resolution and regulations shall be in place for 270 unless modified by the State Board.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT THAT

1. District staff shall implement Stage I of the District's 2010 Urban Water Conservation Plan and directs staff to begin implementation the programs and activities listed in Exhibit A with a goal of decreasing water production by 20%.

2. The following water uses are prohibited by the Stage I Plan:

- The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
- Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
- Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated. Recycled water is not mandated, but encouraged for fountain use.

3. These restrictions may be waived by the General Manager where necessary to address an immediate health and safety need or to comply with a term or condition in a permit issued by a State or federal agency.

4. This Stage I Plan and water use restrictions shall be in place until April 11, 2014 unless other direction is received from the State Board.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Board of Directors of the SWEETWATER SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT, Sonoma County, California, at a meeting held on August 7, 2014, by the following vote.

Director	Aye	No
Sukey Robb-Wilder	_____	_____
Tim Lipinski	_____	_____
Richard Holmer	_____	_____
Gaylord Schaap	_____	_____
Victoria Wikle	_____	_____

_____
Richard Holmer
President of the Board of Directors

_____
Attest: Julie A. Kenny

Clerk of the Board of Directors

Exhibit A
Resolution 14-14
Sweetwater Springs Water District Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Stage I Water Shortage
August 7, 2014

Reduction Target is 20%. According to 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, this is Stage 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Triggering Mechanism is State Board Order 2014-0038 directing enactment of Water Shortage Contingency Plan level that contains mandatory measures, a 20% water use reduction by all water agencies statewide, and requiring certain outside water use restrictions.

The approach/strategy is voluntary conservation whereby District customers are encouraged and offered resources to use water wisely, and to search for and fix leaks on their property combined with a limited number of outside watering restrictions. The District will continue with its capital projects aimed at reducing system losses, pay attention to water wasting in the District, fix surfacing leaks as quickly as possible, and look for other opportunities to reduce system losses.

Plan Elements:

- Public Education/Information
    - Work with SCWA and other water providers in the region for coordinated message
    - Information on website
    - Home Water Audits – self and assisted:
        - Instructions on meter reading.
        - Check for leaks inside and outside.
        - Evaluate all water uses in your facility or home.
        - Provide information on rebates, incentive programs, and water conservation strategies for residents/businesses.
    - Reduce outside watering of ornamental plants and turf.
    - Office Display with handouts – rebates, low flow showerheads, faucet aerators.
    - Water Wise Gardening
    - Media Spots – press releases, PSA's done on a regional basis
    - Connect with Statewide effort
- Waste of Water Prohibited, staff will be alerted to be on the lookout for wastage of water. In the approved Stage I Plan and as required by the State, waste of water includes:
    - The application of potable water to any driveway or sidewalk.
    - Using potable water to water outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures.
    - Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
    - Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is recirculated.
- Rate incentives – rates have financial incentive to reduce water use (steep incline to tiered rates).

- Capital Improvement Program – 2015 CIP is replacing water distribution mains on Old Monte Rio Road as part of program to reduce system losses and is starting in July.
- District staff fix reported and found leaks on a priority basis and continue to implement the District effort to decrease water losses.